

Tee Shots

The additional nine holes at Burnham and Berrow have so delighted the Club that there is now talk of extending these holes to 18. Work started on nine holes in April and the greens, tees, and fairways have now been sown. The holes, like their ancestors just alongside, have been built out of the sand dunes, in amongst buckthorn and reeds. Huge quantities of clay soil and peat have had to be incorporated with the sand to form a moisture-retaining soil.

It is customary nowadays to get through the construction work on new golf courses in one season, starting in April and sowing in September. The programme frequently becomes rushed and is all too dependent on those dreams of long hot summer days. The lessons of starting early are clear from some of the courses which are nearing completion this Autumn.

The new course at Minchinhampton looks very well after a September sowing. Work started last December. The site was very stony and the contractors employed a magnificent Dutch weapon.

The machine rotavates the soil which is pushed against a screen, allowing the stones to drop below the loose earth. This machine also fertilises and sows in a single operation.

The two new championship courses at Fox Hills, Chertsey, are now in progress. Work on the East Course did not start until June and the contractors are having a hard job to get sown this Autumn. The greens and tees have nevertheless been sown, bright green islands set in the brown cultivated land and the autumn trees. The West Course is planned entirely in woodland and plantations. Work has already started on tree clearance and it is hoped to continue construction over the winter months, ready for a spring sow. The two courses should both be ready for play in July 1975.

Next month we print the first of a series of talks which were delivered at the First British Turfgrass Symposium last October. In time we hope to produce the whole of the Symposium Proceedings in a single volume.



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